

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01743 262156Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 STR-04

CIEP-01 OMB-01 /074 W

----- 120209

R 262101Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3407

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CO, CS

SUBJ: PROPOSED COLOMBIA,COSTA RICAN CANAL TRANSIT

BENEFITS

1. IN A FEATURED FRONT-PAGE MARCH 26 ANALYSIS, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA HAS CONCLUDED THAT "THE BENEFITS WHICH PANAMA PROPOSES TO GRANT COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA ONCE IT ACQUIRES THE CANAL ARE IDENTICAL TO THE 'RIGHTS' WHICH THE U.S. GRANTED COLOMBIA IN 1914 UNDER THE URRUTIA-THOMSON TREATY." LA ESTRELLA PRINTED POINT-BY-POINT COMPARISONS OF URRUTIA-THOMSON AND JOINT DECLARATION LANGUAGE TO SUPPORT ITS CONCLUSION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AMOUNTS INVOLVED, THE PAPER CITED STATISTICS, ATTRIBUTED TO PANCANAL, INDICATING THAT IN FY 75, 16 COLOMBIAN VESSELS TRANSITED THE CANAL WITH URRUTIA-THOMSON BENEFITS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, HAD THESE SHIPS PAID NORMAL TOLLS THE COST WOULD HAVE BEEN \$14,493.56.

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WITH REGARD TO COSTA RICA, ESTRELLA REPORTED THAT

ONLY ONE COSTA RICAN FLAG VESSEL TRANSITED THE
WATERWAY IN FY 74. THE ARTICLE ALSO EXPLAINED PANCANAL
TON SYSTEM OF LEVYING TOLLS AND OBSERVED THAT PERSONS
ON BOARD VESSELS DO NOT PAY TRANSIT FEE, ALTHOUGH PASSENGER
SHIPS THEMSELVES DO.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ARTICLE MAY BE MERELY GOOD
FOLLOW-UP REPORTING, IMPRESSIONS IT LEAVES IS THAT
PANAMA'S PROPOSED "CONCESSIONS" DO NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH IN
TERMS OF LOST CANAL REVENUES. THIS MESSAGE, WHETHER OR
NOT INSPIRED BY GOP, MAY HELP FORESTALL CRITICISM THAT
GOP "GAVE AWAY" MORE THAN NECESSARY.
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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